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Message Text

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16
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 CEQ-02

EPA-04 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /164 W
---------- 041273
R 110420Z APR 74
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MELBOURNE 0425

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, SENV, UK, FR, AS
SUBJECT: SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT AND THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2018 AND (B) LONDON 4230

1. DISCUSSIONS WITH PERTINENT ATG (FORMERLY DCA) OFFICERS INVOLVED IN SST QUESTION INDICATE GOA NOT NECESSARILY CONSIDERING A FORMAL STATEMENT ABOUT CONCORDE OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA.

2. IN JANUARY 1974 THE AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION PUBLISHED A REPORT WHICH HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THIS REPORT, TITLED "REPORT NO. 3 -- ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF SST", WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC AROUND APRIL 1 AND STATES THAT THE CONCORDE WOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO RECOMMEND AGAINST OPERATING PLANES OF THIS TYPE IN AUSTRALIA IF CERTAIN CONTROLS ON EMISSION, SONIC BOOM, NOISE LEVEL AND EXCESSIVE RADIATION WERE PUT INTO EFFECT. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
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HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON THIS REPORT AND THERE

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IS NO ACTION PENDING IN TRANSPORT CIRCLES TO IMPLEMENT IT.
MANY CONSIDER MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ACTION
TO BE A TEST BALLOON TO SIZE UP PUBLIC OPINION AND REACTION,
PARTICULARLY FROM THE CONSERVATIONISTS. TO DATE NONE OF THE
GROUPS HAS CONTACTED ATG ON THIS ISSUE.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE TEST BALLOON MIGHT PRECEDE ACTION
AT A LATER DATE BUT SINCE NEW ELECTIONS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
PARLIAMENT ARE SET FOR MID-MAY IT MIGHT APPEAR THAT THIS
ISSUE WILL NOT BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY DURING THIS
INTERVENING PERIOD.
BROWN

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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